

Revising with Style

LESSON 22

Using Transitions

To connect related ideas, use transitions. **Transitions** are words that help your writing flow from one idea to another. The chart below provides just a few examples of transitions you can use.

Common Transitions	
Time	first, when, until, next, before, finally, after, that night, meanwhile, then
Location	above, below, here, underneath, inside, there, in the distance
Importance	first, mainly, primarily, last, most important, secondly, next
Cause and Effect	as a result, because, consequently, since, therefore, then
Comparison	similarly, like, just as, also, in the same way, in addition, moreover
Contrast	although, but, even so, however, on the other hand, unlike, while

The following example shows how the flow of a paragraph can be improved by adding transitions. Notice that a transition may be appropriately used at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence.

Without Transitions We tried to fly to Seattle. We wanted to see our favorite band perform. Thunderstorms passed through the region, and all flights were cancelled. All of the hotels near the airport were full. We had to sleep at the airport. We missed the concert. We were relieved not to fly during the storm.

With Transitions **Yesterday** we tried to fly to Seattle **because** we wanted to see our favorite band perform **there**. **But** thunderstorms passed through the region, and **as a result**, all flights were cancelled. **In addition**, all of the hotels near the airport were full. **Consequently**, we had to sleep at the airport. **Although** we missed the concert, we were relieved not to fly during the storm.

EXERCISE Using the transition type shown in the parentheses, rewrite one or both sentences in each pair to clarify their relationship. Combine the two sentences if you wish, omitting words or changing their forms as necessary.

Sample My friend Rebecca likes luxury vacations. I prefer adventure travel. (contrast)

Revision My friend Rebecca likes luxury vacations. However, I prefer adventure travel.

1. Rebecca and I count down the days until our vacations. Children count down the days until summer. (comparison)

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2. I go backpacking in remote places. Rebecca goes sunbathing where there are lots of people. (contrast)

3. I like to go backpacking. It's inexpensive. (cause and effect)

4. I like backpacking because it's affordable. It's fun. (comparison)

5. I hiked along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains. I could see miles of forest. (location)

6. I came back from all that hiking. I was in the best shape of my life. (time)

7. Improving my physical condition was only a minor benefit. I felt I'd accomplished something. (importance)

8. I was working up a sweat hiking. Rebecca was lying on a beach all day. (contrast)

9. She works as a personal trainer. She wants to take it easy for her vacation. (cause and effect)

10. Rebecca is on her feet all day at work. I sit at a desk. (contrast)

